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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie

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Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 33/18 of 10 November 1978, 50/3 of 16 October 1995, 52/2 of 17 October 1997, 54/25 of 15 November 1999, 56/45 of 7 December 2001, 57/43 of 21 November 2002, 59/22 of 8 November 2004, 61/7 of 20 October 2006, 63/236 of 22 December 2008 and 65/263 of 14 January 2011, as well as its decision 53/453 of 18 December 1998,

Recalling also its resolutions 61/266 of 16 May 2007, 63/306 of 9 September 2009 and 65/311 of 19 July 2011 on multilingualism,

Considering that the International Organization of la Francophonie, which is made up of seventy-four States Members of the United Nations, representing more than one third of the members of the General Assembly, is promoting multilateral cooperation in areas of common interest,

Bearing in mind the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations which encourage the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations through regional cooperation,

Bearing in mind also that, according to the Charter of la Francophonie adopted on 23 November 2005 at the Ministerial Conference of la Francophonie, held in Antananarivo, the objectives of the International Organization of la Francophonie are to assist in the establishment and development of democracy, the prevention,

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management and settlement of conflicts, support for the rule of law and for human rights, the intensification of dialogue between cultures and civilizations, the establishment of closer ties among peoples through mutual knowledge, the strengthening of their solidarity through multilateral cooperation activities with a view to promoting the growth of their economies, and the promotion of education and training,

Welcoming the steps taken by the International Organization of la Francophonie to strengthen its ties with the organizations of the United Nations system and with international and regional organizations with a view to attaining its objectives,

Affirming the importance of a balanced and effective multilateral system that is representative of today's world, one that is based upon a strong and renewed United Nations,

Noting with satisfaction the commitment of the International Organization of la Francophonie to multilingualism and to multilateral cooperation for peace, democratic governance and the rule of law, economic governance and solidarity, poverty eradication, protection of the environment, sustainable development and combating climate change,

Noting with satisfaction also the commitments made in "The future we want", the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held from 20 to 22 June 2012,[1] particularly those aimed at accelerating achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, and reaffirmed by the Heads of State and Government of countries using French as a common language at the fourteenth Summit of la Francophonie, held in Kinshasa on 13 and 14 October 2012, together with an undertaking to play an active role in formulating and implementing the sustainable development goals and a determination to implement national sustainable development strategies to make an effective contribution to eradicating poverty and preserving environmental resources,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 65/263,[2]

Noting with satisfaction the substantial progress achieved in cooperation between the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies and programmes and the International Organization of la Francophonie,

Convinced that strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie serves the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Noting the will of the two organizations to consolidate, develop and strengthen the ties that exist between them in the political, economic, social and cultural fields,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[2] and welcomes the strengthened and fruitful cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie;

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[1] Annex to resolution 66/288.

[2] See A/67/280-S/2012/614, sect. II.

2. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in accordance with the declaration adopted by Heads of State and Government of countries using French as a common language at the fourteenth Summit of la Francophonie, the International Organization of la Francophonie participates actively in the work of the United Nations, whose purposes, as set forth in its Charter, include safeguarding international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and respect for the principle of sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, achieving international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and serving as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of common ends;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* the continued strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie in the area of human rights and promoting gender equality, and commends the initiatives taken by the International Organization of la Francophonie in the areas of crisis and conflict prevention, the promotion of peace, support for democracy and the rule of law, in accordance with the commitments set forth in its Bamako Declaration, of 3 November 2000, on the practices of democracy, rights and freedoms in the Francophone world, and reaffirmed at the Conference on Conflict Prevention and Human Security, held on 13 and 14 May 2006 in Saint Boniface, Canada;

4. *Welcomes* the involvement of the International Organization of la Francophonie in high-level consultations on the Sahel, and its genuine contribution, in cooperation with the United Nations, to crisis resolution and recovery and to peacebuilding in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Madagascar, Tunisia and the Sahel, including Mali and Niger;

5. *Welcomes* the strengthened cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Organization of la Francophonie, aiming particularly to provide support for French-speaking countries in the context of the universal periodic review;

6. *Also welcomes* the development of cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie, with the participation of other regional and subregional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, in the fields of early warning and crisis and conflict prevention, and encourages the pursuit of this initiative with a view to formulating practical recommendations to facilitate the establishment of relevant operational mechanisms, where necessary;

7. *Further welcomes* the impetus given to the participation of States members of the International Organization of la Francophonie in peacekeeping operations, while recalling that it is up to the United Nations to preserve the multilingualism of these operations, and draws attention to the strengthened cooperation between the International Organization of la Francophonie and the Secretariat's Department of Peacekeeping Operations with a view to increasing the number of French-speaking personnel in the theatre of United Nations peacekeeping operations;

8. *Encourages* the continuation of efforts by the States members of the International Organization of la Francophonie and by the Organization itself, taking into account the authority of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to increase the supply of French-speaking civilian and military contingents on missions to francophone countries and to build their capacities, including access by French-speaking personnel to leadership positions in peacekeeping operations in French-speaking countries;

9. *Welcomes* the participation of the International Organization of la Francophonie in the Peacebuilding Commission's work on Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, and strongly encourages the International Organization of la Francophonie and the Peacebuilding Commission to continue to cooperate actively;

10. *Also welcomes* the involvement of the International Organization of la Francophonie in promoting the international system of criminal justice, as well as the signing of a partnership agreement between the International Organization of la Francophonie and the International Criminal Court, which illustrates the role played by the International Organization of la Francophonie in protecting human rights, restoring the rule of law and combating impunity;

11. *Further welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the International Organization of la Francophonie to establish democratic governance of security systems and to define its own position on matters of justice, truth and reconciliation in order to support French-speaking States in crisis and in transition;

12. *Notes with satisfaction* the developing collaboration between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie in electoral monitoring and assistance, and encourages the strengthening of cooperation between the two Organizations in that area;

13. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for including the International Organization of la Francophonie in the periodic meetings he holds with heads of regional organizations, and invites him to continue to do so, taking into account the role played by the International Organization of la Francophonie in conflict prevention and support for democracy and the rule of law;

14. *Welcomes* the concrete commitment of the States members of the International Organization of la Francophonie, mobilized at their fourteenth summit, to pursue efforts aimed at:

(a) Dealing with key environmental and economic issues in a spirit of solidarity and faithfulness to the Millennium Development Goals; and helping to formulate and implement the sustainable development goals, in accordance with the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

(b) Promoting democratic governance and human rights;

(c) Respecting cultural diversity and multilingualism, by means including education;

(d) Improving global governance in such a way as to encourage the establishment of a balanced multilateral system which enables permanent and equitable representation of Africa in decision-making bodies;

15. *Invites* the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as the regional commissions, including the Economic Commission for Africa, to collaborate to this end with the Secretary-General of la Francophonie by identifying new synergies in favour of development, in particular in the areas of poverty eradication, energy, sustainable development, education, training and the development of new information technologies, in particular with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including, by 2015, the Millennium Development Goals, to the benefit of all, including young people and women;

16. *Welcomes* the signing, on 21 May 2012, of a framework cooperation agreement between the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the International Organization of la Francophonie, aimed at a mutual strengthening of initiatives and projects focused on women in French-speaking countries, including those targeting violence against women;

17. *Encourages* the International Organization of la Francophonie to work in synergy with UN-Women in areas including the involvement of women in political decision-making and in economic, social and cultural life; arguing for equality between women and men and integrating gender equality into sustainable development;

18. *Welcomes* the signing on 31 May 2012 of a Memorandum of Understanding between the World Intellectual Property Organization and the International Organization of la Francophonie aimed at strengthening the existing cooperation between the organizations;

19. *Expresses its gratitude* to the International Organization of la Francophonie for the steps it has taken in recent years to promote cultural and linguistic diversity and dialogue between cultures and civilizations, and encourages the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie to cooperate more closely to ensure full respect of the provisions on multilingualism;

20. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of la Francophonie for their sustained efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the two Organizations, thereby serving their mutual interests in the political, economic, social and cultural fields;

21. *Welcomes* the involvement of the countries that use French as a common language, particularly through the International Organization of la Francophonie, in the preparation for, conduct of, and follow-up to, international conferences organized under the auspices of the United Nations, as occurred with the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio in June 2012 and the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul in May 2011;

22. *Also welcomes* the high-level meetings held periodically between the Secretariat of the United Nations and the Secretariat of the International Organization of la Francophonie, and requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in cooperation with the Secretary-General of la Francophonie, to encourage the holding of periodic meetings between their representatives in order to promote the exchange of information, coordination of activities and identification of new areas of cooperation;

23. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take the steps necessary, acting together with the Secretary-General of la Francophonie, to continue to promote cooperation between the two organizations;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie".